

August 26, 1947

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO: Deputy Assistant Director for Operations**

**FROM: Acting Chief, FBIS**

**SUBJECT: MANDARIN MONITORING**

Pursuant to our conversation of August 25, 1947, the following information relative to the qualifications of a Mandarin monitor are furnished:

1. A Mandarin monitor listens to voice broadcasts from Nationalist and Communist China, Moscow, Singapore, and other places outside China. He simultaneously types in English a summary of the broadcast. The broadcast is also recorded on a wax cylinder. By use of a transcribing machine, the monitor is then required to produce in typewritten form full text English translations of selected recordings. The programs handled by a monitor are varied in material, including propaganda broadcasts, political, economic, financial and other items of intelligence value. For this reason it is necessary that the monitor have a thorough grasp of both English and Mandarin, with a broad vocabulary in each language. He must also be able to write Chinese, since it is sometimes necessary with difficult reception to transcribe the texts in Chinese before translating them into English. He may also be required to translate Chinese numerical code, which demands a good knowledge of written Chinese.

2. In order to satisfactorily perform the work of a Mandarin monitor, it is almost essential that a candidate has attended both a Chinese and an English school, at least on the high school level. As a substitute for Chinese schooling, long years in China might be satisfactory, while long years spent in the United States would usually suffice for the English background. An ideal candidate is one who has spent most of his life in China, finishing high school there, and has attended, or preferably graduated from, an American college.

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**Acting Chief, FBIS**

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